

**2007 South Fork State Recreation Area
Recommended Development Plan Summary**

Plan Concept

Overall development themes are to reflect the rural western heritage of Elko County and surrounding areas. South Fork SRA provides convenient year-round recreational opportunities for motorized and non-motorized water-based activities. Group-use, day-use and overnight land-based recreation opportunities will be enhanced and expanded, including blue ribbon fishing, a variety of picnicking areas, and developed and dispersed camping. Multi-use trails will be improved and expanded to provide quality non-motorized opportunities for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. A motorized trailhead will be developed in cooperation with other agencies for access to trails on other public lands. The site's natural and historical resources will continue to be protected and interpreted to educate and inform the public on wildlife habitat areas, local ranching history, and the California Emigrant Trail.

East Shore Development Area

The majority of the South Fork recreational facility development will be concentrated along the upland terraces/bluff areas adjacent to the eastern shoreline of the reservoir. This area was selected as the prime area for recreational development due to: its ease of control; access from the Lower South Fork and Dam roads; isolation from nearby residential subdivision developments; accessibility to the reservoir shoreline; and favorable conditions and opportunities for recreational development. This development area includes:

- Little Red Beach Development.
- New Hastings Boat Launch
- Hamilton Boat Launch Improvements.
- New Emigrant Campground
- Tomera Campground Improvements
- New Landa Ranch Group Use Area
- New Tomera Home Ranch Equestrian Area

West Shore Development Area

Development in this management area will be concentrated along the western shoreline of the reservoir. This area was selected for recreational development due to: its ease of control; access from the Lucky Nugget access road; accessibility to the reservoir shoreline; and popular conditions and opportunities for recreational opportunities differing from those offered on the East Shore. This development area includes:

- Coyote Cove Boat Launch Improvements.
- Jet Ski/Coyote Beaches improvements.
- Fisherman’s Point and Beach Improvements.

Interpretation

- The preservation of historical and cultural resources from further deterioration will be implemented.
- Kiosks and other interpretative displays regarding the Tomera and Landa Ranches will be added to historical and cultural resources.
- A new interpretive kiosk about the dam and its history as well as a parking area will be added at Little Red Beach.
- Acquisition of era appropriate farming equipment for further interpretation will be actively pursued and done as practicable.
- Development and implementation of a Park Interpretation Plan will be completed by 2010.

Wildlife Management/Habitat Areas

Wildlife management and habitat areas are to be managed in conjunction with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). Areas were selected for management based on existing or developed wet meadow vegetation communities, tree cover, riparian ecologic systems, and favorable conditions for small game habitat, waterfowl nesting areas, migratory waterfowl rest and collection areas, and fish spawning areas. Recreational facilities proposed for development in these areas are limited to: trails and boardwalks; wildlife viewing platforms and observation towers; and interpretive boards postings and kiosks.

North Wildlife Management Area

- Provide trails and board-walks through wetland habitat areas.
- Develop observation blinds and viewing towers with wildlife and waterfowl interpretive displays.



Wetland Mitigation Management Area

- Small non-motorized boat launch will be added.
- Provide trails and board-walks through wetland habitat areas.
- Develop observation blinds and viewing towers with wildlife and waterfowl interpretive displays.

South Wildlife Management Area

- Provide trails and board-walks through wetland habitat areas.
- Develop observation blinds and viewing towers with wildlife and waterfowl interpretive displays.

Trails

- A shoreline trail will be developed the goes all the way around the reservoir.
- Develop Hamilton OHV Trailhead parking.
- Cooperate with the County and BLM for the development of an off-road vehicle recreation plan.
- Provide map displays for on and off-site trail destinations and trail markers.
- Develop trailhead/parking area for 5 – 6 vehicles and trailers for OHV loading and off-loading.
- Develop Hastings Cutoff Trail below dam to north side of river.
- Develop an equestrian/pedestrian interpretive/access trail to provide recreational access on the Northeast side of the Humboldt River below the dam, using the approximate alignment of the historic Hastings Cutoff of the Emigrant Trail.
- Develop Humboldt River Trail Loop.
- Develop an equestrian/pedestrian interpretive/access trail to provide recreational access on both the West and East side of the Humboldt River South of the causeway.
- Develop an equestrian/pedestrian bridge spanning the Humboldt River, at or near the river gauging station.

Marina Concession Area (Future Option)

The land area between the Hamilton Boat Launch and the future Hastings Boat Launch is proposed as a site for a possible Marina Concession. The concession would be a future consideration after the construction of the Hastings Boat Launch to assist in the management and operation of this new site. The recreational facilities proposed for development in this area would be through a lease/concession agreement with a private concessionaire.

Natural Resource Management Scheme

The land surrounding the reservoir is comprised of approximately 2,200 acres of scenic meadow areas and low rolling hills and terraces overlooking the river valley. The entire shoreline will be apart of the recreation facility and will have public access. Much of the meadow areas are old agricultural hay fields that have been left to return to native vegetation. Above and below the reservoir the river corridors are being allowed to meander and develop a more natural corridor. Cottonwood galleries and willow riparian areas are reestablishing themselves and provide for native wildlife communities to return to the newly developing habitats.

Landscape Management

Landscape Management schemes within the park will reflect the cultural heritage of rural ranch life of the late 1800's and early 1900's. Where practical, heritage and native vegetation will be used to complement the aesthetic values of the recreational experience.

Habitat Management

The North and South Wildlife Management Areas and the Wetlands Mitigation Area are managed as wildlife habitat areas in conjunction with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. These areas were selected due to existing wet meadows and shallow marshes, tree galleries, willow riparian systems and overall favorable conditions for large and small game habitat, waterfowl nesting areas, migratory staging and harvesting, and fish spawning areas. Management schemes will be implemented that promote a healthy balanced ecology yand maintain quality habitats within the recreational area. Limited recreation is proposed for these areas generally relating to seasonal hunting, trails management and interpretive and viewing opportunities.

